

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 XMB-07

AID-20 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SS-20 SAM-01 FRB-02 DRC-01 /122 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8914

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PE

SUBJECT: BANK STRIKE

1. FOLLOWING ONE-DAY WORK STOPPAGE AND BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF MANAGEMENT, BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION (FEDERACION DE EMPLEADOS BANCARIOS-FEB, AN AFFILIATE OF PRO-GOVERNMENT MOSCOW-COMMUNIST CGTP LABOR CENTRAL) ANNOUNCED NATIONWIDE INDEFINITE STRIKE COMMENCING FEBRUARY 19 UNLESS DEMANDS ARE MET. WIDE MARGIN SEPARATES FEB FROM MANAGEMENT AND DECISION NOW IN HANDS OF MINISTRY OF LABOR.

2. COMMENT: STRIKES ARE PERENNIAL FEB TACTIC DESIGNED TO PRESSURE GOVERNMENT FOR A FAVORABLE DETERMINATION. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED "LA NUEVA CRONICA" DEPLORED STRIKE THREAT AND DENOUNCED EXORBITANT WAGE DEMANDS BECAUSE GOP IS CONCERNED THAT GENEROUS WAGE AWARD WILL HURT STATE AND STATE-ASSOCIATED BANKS, WHICH NOW PREDOMINATE IN FINANCIAL SECTOR. LEFTIST, PRO-CGTP DAILY "EXPRESO", FOLLOWING GOP LEAD AT RISK OF OFFENDING A PRINCIPAL AND WELL-ORGANIZED CGTP AFFILIATE, CALLED FOR BANK WORKERS TO ABANDON PURELY ECONOMIC CRITERIA, SACRIFICE FOR REVOLUTION AND MODERATE THEIR DEMANDS.

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3. GOP IS AWARE THAT BIG WAGE HIKE FOR TWENTY THOUSAND BANK WORKERS WILL FUEL INFLATION, AN INCREASINGLY SENSITIVE

ISSUE. LAST MONTH TWO PRINCIPAL LABOR CONFEDERATIONS,
CTP AND CGTP, CALLED FOR ACROSS-THE-BOARD SALARY INCREASES
(LIMA 0889) AND ATMOSPHERE IS SUCH THAT PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT
OF A LAVISH AWARD MIGHT GENERATE DESTABILIZING DEMANDS
FROM OTHER GROUPS.
BELCHER

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